



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

It describes, indeed, the straitnesses and sadnesses of growing years; but sets off against them the more than preponderant immunities and felicities. It treats of the duties of the aged, and of their rights and dues at the hands of the younger. It gives biographical sketches and anecdotes of good and happy old men and women. And, above all, it blends with the serene sunset of a well-spent life the young morning beams of the never-setting day. It will carry solace to many a fireside, and will rekindle hope and gladness in many a soul that hardly dares to look into its earthly future.

Mrs. Sigourney furnishes a striking refutation of the not unusual idea that a poet's prose is none the better for the habit of metrical composition. Hers is not poetry dismembered, but chaste and modest prose, free from the intrusive licenses of verse, yet thoroughly interpenetrated with the poetic imagination which gives grace and glow alike to all forms of literature.

---

24.—*"It is Never too Late to Mend." A Matter of Fact Romance.*

By CHARLES READE. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1856. 2 vols.  
12mo. pp. 423, 424.

EITHER we did injustice to Mr. Reade in our late review of his previous novels, or he did not do justice to himself in them. This exhibits a power of which they, to us at least, gave no token. Here we have a story embracing a wonderful variety of scenes, events, and characters, all so developed as to leave no obscurity, so harmonized as never to clash or become entangled, and so grouped as to bring out, without obtrusive moralizing, a manifold illustration of the maxim that forms the title, and of not a few fundamental moralities beside. A large portion of the work is given to the exposure of the abuses and enormities connected with or incidental to the so-called improvements of prison discipline, the solitary system, and the irresponsible power which it lodges in its administrators. Another large portion consists of a series of intensely graphic sketches of life in Australia; while the story opens and closes in the rural neighborhood in England which gave birth to its principal actors. The entire work is pervaded by a strong and high moral purpose; and by means of it the author has assumed and fortified his position, as that of one whose office it is not to amuse, but to instruct, reform, and elevate.